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Sister Joseph Ferris

Sister M. Joseph, Margaret Ferris of Delaware, Ohio, daughter of John Ferris and Mary Flaherty, died on the third floor infirmary at the Motherhouse at 11:45 PM in the ninety-seventh year of her age and the sixty-fifth of her religious life. The funeral services were held in the chapel of the Motherhouse at 8:30. The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by the chaplain, Rev. Thomas Rust, OFM. Father Angelus Zwesler, OFM and Father Roman Hasenstab, OFM, assisted as deacon and subdeacon. Father Thomas officiated at the burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Sister Joseph and very likely her niece, Sister Emily (died April, 1938) evidently became acquainted with the Sisters of our Community in the early years when our Sisters were in charge of St. Mary's School, Delaware, Ohio.

Sister Joseph had been at the Motherhouse since the summer of 1912. She had substituted here and there, but had not been assigned for teaching. For years Mother Angela and Sister Joseph worked together on the reading and phonic charts which Mother Angela had made for the primary teachers of the Community. Mother Angela's eyesight was very poor. Day after day one could see them poring over the dictionary or grammars. Sister Joseph, one might say, was Mother Angela's eyes, but both of them, old as they were, had ears attuned for correct pronunciation, correct grammar and the best choice of words. Even after Mother Angela's death, even far into her last year of life, Sister Joseph could be seen getting the large dictionary and taking it to the window sill in the Community Room to look up words. Sister was alert almost to the last, but for about two weeks before her death she had interest for nothing but prayer. Her speaking of God and His Blessed Mother through the years seemed to be as natural as her breathing. Her favorite expression was "Glory Be to God", but always with the greatest reverence.

She was born in Fallamore, County Kerry, Ireland on March 4, 1842. She came to America at the beginning of the seventies and lived with relatives in Delaware, Ohio. It was here she became acquainted with the Sisters of our Congregation when they staffed St. Mary's School, Delaware. She entered on November 15, 1873.

Sister Joseph Ferris

Until about three weeks before her death when Sister Joseph became ill, she had been in very good health considering her advanced age. Her mind was very active and retained almost to the end an interest in everything about. During the last several days before her death nothing brought a response except prayers.